

Earlier this year, as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, we took an important step forward. We passed a temporary \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers.

The good news is that tax credit has worked. Closer to home, in the Phoenix metropolitan area, according to at least one recent survey, home sales have reached 9,614 in June, up 11 percent from May.

However, I believe we need to expand this credit to make it available to any American who wants to buy a home, not just first-time homebuyers. As the expiration of the current homebuyer tax credit approaches, I want to encourage my colleagues to consider supporting legislation to expand and extend the homebuyer tax credit.

MEDICARE PATIENTS WILL LOSE QUALITY OF CARE

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I practiced medicine, general medicine, in the State of Georgia for almost four decades. The American people need to understand if the House bill or the Senate bill is passed into law, my patients and physicians like me all across this Nation are not going to be able to give the kind of health care to their patients that they are today.

Medicare patients are going to lose the quality of care that they are getting today. Tens of thousands of people are going to lose their private insurance. The cost is going to go up for everybody in this country.

The quality of care is going to go down. It's going to be too costly. We are going to be all forced on the government bureaucrat-run health care system, and the American people need to know that, Madam Speaker.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ED GRIER

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Grier, who served as the president of Disneyland Resort in my district for 3 years, before his retirement this October 9.

Ed is a 20-year veteran the Walt Disney Company; and he served in a variety of roles, from senior auditor at Walt Disney World to the executive managing director of Walt Disney Attractions in Japan. But for the last 3 years, we have been lucky enough to have him in Anaheim.

His hard work has continued to make Disneyland one of our Nation's top tourist attractions. In fact, in 2008, while most attractions were hurting, Disneyland hosted 14.7 million visitors

and generated substantial revenue for our local businesses and for our cities. In addition, Disney is Orange County's largest private employer, with about 20,000 employees.

During Ed's tenure, the resort began a \$1 billion expansion of Disney's California Adventure and constructed the company's first west coast timeshare units at the Grand Californian Hotel, which opened last month.

In addition Ed joined the Orange County community by serving as a board member for the Children's Hospital of Orange County. Ed's skill and leadership will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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CONGRATULATING SCOTT MCCRERY, EAGLE SCOUT

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, for 20 years, the Honorable Jim McCrery represented Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District. It is an honor to directly follow former Congressman McCrery and represent the great people of northwest Louisiana.

Earlier this week, former Congressman McCrery's son, Scott, received his Eagle Scout award, the highest award given in scouting. Scott's Eagle project was a rather ambitious undertaking. He organized nearly 50 volunteers to remove debris from the historic grounds of Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. The debris covered an area the size of two football fields. In addition to being an eyesore, it also represented a fire hazard to the mansion. Some of the debris Scott and his volunteer corps gathered was used to build habitat for the wildlife that lives on the property.

Scott began his scouting journey in Shreveport 10 years ago when, as a Tiger Cub, he joined the Cub Scout pack at South Highlands Elementary School.

I congratulate Scott McCrery on this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY L. HAYDEN

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, Mr. Bobby Hayden, a scholar, a soldier, a community advocate and a family man.

Bobby Hayden, who resides in my district, was one of the first African Americans on a Presidential Honor Guard. He took the first watch over President Kennedy's body. He became active in our community and has added a great deal to his alma mater, Alabama A&M.

As a middle and high school teacher, Bobby has spent decades of his life shaping the lives of north Alabama's

youth. He has been at the forefront of many activities, specifically working to preserve historical landmarks in the Tennessee Valley.

Mr. Hayden is a dedicated Alabama A&M alumnus, a Bulldog, and has held several positions in the college alumni association. He was inducted into the Alabama A&M Sports Hall of Fame and currently serves as the secretary for the Hall of Fame Association.

It is a privilege for me to mention his name on the floor, as he has gone somewhat unrecognized as one of the first African Americans on President Kennedy's Honor Guard, standing with the family through the ordeal.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST JACOB SEXTON

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, sometimes our heroes fall on foreign soil, and sometimes they come home and fall, but we honor their service and their sacrifice all the same.

Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to mark the sudden passing of a hero from my home State of Indiana and to honor his service and his life. Army Specialist Jacob Sexton, a combat veteran of conflicts both in Iraq and Afghanistan, tragically passed away while on leave from his overseas duties earlier this week.

A native of Farmland, Indiana, Jacob graduated from Monroe Central High School, and like many men in the Sexton family, Jacob chose to wear the uniform.

Jacob served with Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, of the 151st Infantry Regiment in the Indiana National Guard. Those who served with him remember a selfless soldier who was quick to volunteer for difficult assignments.

A Humvee driver while in Iraq, he took on dangerous positions, often leaving himself exposed to IED and small-arms attacks. As an infantryman in Afghanistan, Jacob saw firsthand the perils of combat, but he faced those perils with courage.

Those close to Jacob noted that the stresses of combat and long deployments seemed to have little effect on his infectious personality. However, after this week's tragic events, it is painfully clear that Jacob Sexton was deeply affected by his experiences in uniform and on deployment.

While his loss leaves far too many questions unanswered, I believe it is yet another reminder of the special care our heroes need and deserve, those who defend freedom, when they come home.

Heroes like Army Specialist Jacob Sexton are the pride of their family and our Nation's most treasured citizens. Jacob's family, his parents, Jeff and Barbara; his brothers, Joshua, Jeremiah and Jared; and all those who